

## **SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE FISHERIES SURVEY**

**2102-F21-R-45**

**Name:** Edgemont Airport Ponds

**County:** Fall River

**Legal description:** T 9S, R 2E, Sec. 2

**Location from nearest town:** 0.5 mi SW Edgemont (at Edgemont Airport)

**Dates of present survey:** May 15-17, 2012

**Date last surveyed:** Unknown

**Management classification:** Warmwater Marginal

Primary Species: (game and forage)

1. Largemouth Bass
2. Rainbow Trout
3. Black Crappie

Secondary and other species:

1. Green Sunfish
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### **PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

**Surface Area:** 2-3 acres

**Watershed:** NA

**Maximum depth:** 15 feet

**Mean depth:** NA

**Lake elevation at survey (from known benchmark):** One foot below full pool

#### **Ownership of lake and adjacent lakeshore property:**

The Edgemont Airport Ponds are located near the Edgemont Municipal Airport. The ponds are owned by the city of Edgemont.

#### **Fishing Access:**

A fishing pier/dock is present on the lower pond, and there are a couple of small spaces where an angler could cast from shore between the emergent shoreline vegetation. A small fishing boat could be launched in this pond as well. The upper pond has very limited shoreline fishing access, and would be difficult to launch a boat other than a very small boat or canoe that could be carried.

#### **Observations of Water Quality and Aquatic Vegetation:**

Edgemont Airport Ponds are almost entirely surrounded by emergent vegetation consisting mostly of cattails and rushes. There is also some submergent vegetation in the summer around the shoreline and reaching out towards the deeper water. South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGF&P) personnel observed no obvious pollution problems during the 2012 survey.

#### **Describe condition of all structures (i.e. spillway, boat ramps and docks, roads, etc.):**

There were no problems observed during the 2012 survey. There is a fishing pier/boat ramp on the lower pond.

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

**Objective 1.** Provide urban-type fisheries as water levels allow

**Objective 2.** Stock catchable trout in the south pond to add to angler catch.

## BIOLOGICAL DATA

### Sampling Effort and Catch

The Edgemont Airport Ponds were sampled with one modified fyke (trap) net consisting of a 1.3 X 1.5 m frame, 19.1 mm (0.75 in) mesh and a 1.2 X 23 m (3.9 X 75.5 ft) lead and 6 angler hours (Figure 1). A second trap net was also set but was pulled on shore via a vehicle before SDGF&P personnel returned. Trap nets were only set in the south pond due to shallow depth and suitability for launching a boat. A total of 19 fish were collected from the two nets. The species found include Black Crappie (n=6), Largemouth Bass (n=18), Rainbow Trout (n=2), and Green Sunfish (n=1). There were only three fish remaining in the net that was pulled on shore, and they were all Largemouth Bass.

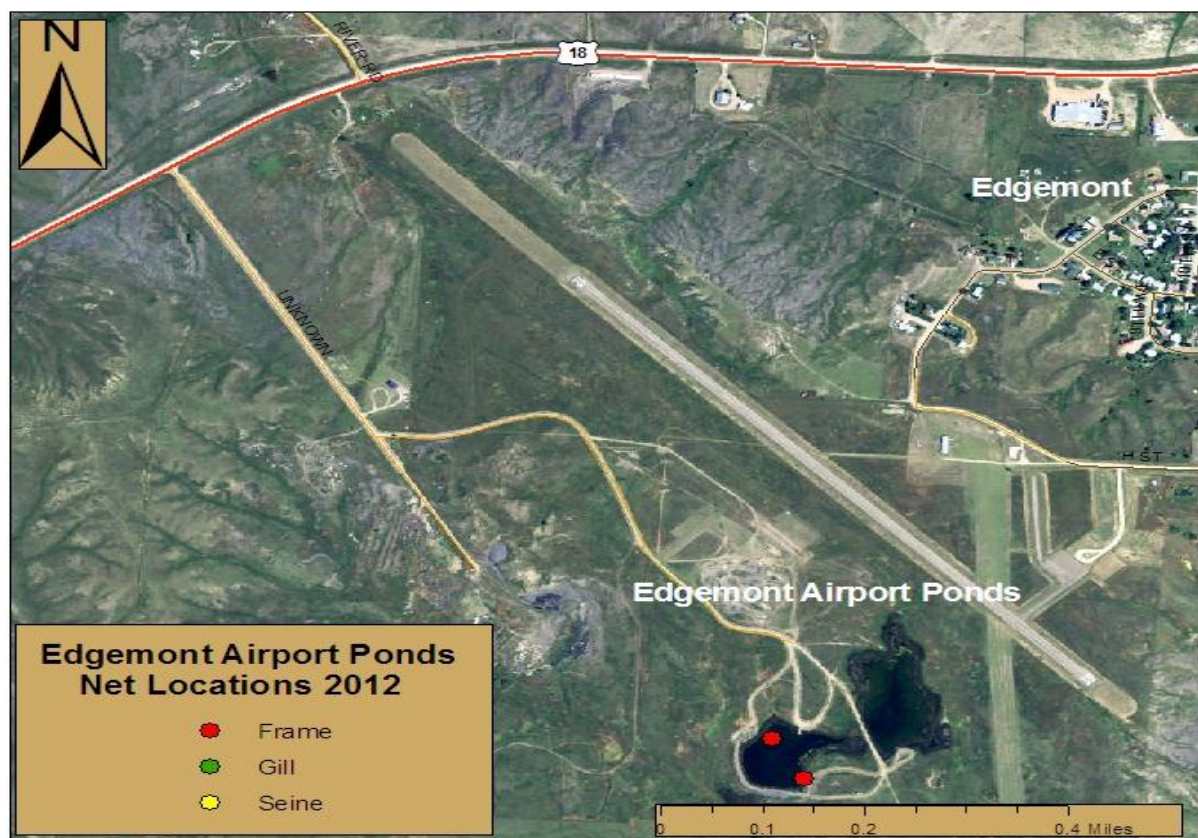


Figure 1. Locations of modified fyke (frame) nets during the fisheries survey of the Edgemont Airport Ponds, Fall River County, South Dakota, 2012.

The Edgemont Airport Ponds are stocked on an annual basis with rainbow trout (Appendix A). In the 2012 survey, two Rainbow Trout were collected in the undisturbed trap net. Rainbow

Trout total lengths were 285 mm (11.2 in) and 300 mm (11.8 in), respectively. Condition was variable as the longer Rainbow Trout exhibited a relative weight (*Wr*) of 107.6, while the shorter Rainbow Trout exhibited a *Wr* of 66.

A total of six Black Crappie were collected in the trap net. Total lengths ranged 172 to 225 mm (6.5-9 in). Sampled Black Crappie were in good condition with mean *Wr* of 99.4.

A sample of Largemouth Bass was collected in the trap nets and by angling. A total of 10 and 8 Largemouth Bass were collected by trap nets and angling, respectively. Scales samples were collected from a subsample from both the trap net caught (N=5) and the angled (N=6) fish. Four of the Largemouth Bass aged were age-4, and ranged from 227-262 mm (8.9-10.3 in). There was also five age-2 fish ranging from 152-195 mm (6-7.7 in), one age-1 fish (145 mm), and one age-6 Largemouth Bass (405 mm; 15.9 in) which was collected from the upper pond.

One Green Sunfish was collected in the trap nets

Yellow perch were observed in the shallow water of the upper pond but none were sampled.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Survey fish populations every five years or as needed to evaluate the fishery.
2. Consider access improvements for fishing the upper pond.

## APPENDIX

Appendix A. Stocking history, including year, species, size and number of fish stocked for Edgemont Airport Ponds, Fall River County, 2002-2012.

Year	Species	Size	Number Stocked
2002	Rainbow Trout	Catchable	1000
2003	Rainbow Trout	Catchable	1000
2004	Rainbow Trout	Catchable	400
2005	Rainbow Trout	Catchable	700
2006	Rainbow Trout	Catchable	400
2007	Rainbow Trout	Catchable	120
2008	Rainbow Trout	Catchable	180
2009	Rainbow Trout	Catchable	630
2010	Rainbow Trout	Catchable	620
2011	Rainbow Trout	Catchable	420
2012	Rainbow Trout	Catchable	1,020